

Bangalore Mirror

ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 29 | Min 16 | Humidity 60%

Mainly clear sky. Misty morning

Sensex 58,644 | Nifty 17,516 | Gold 47,948 | Silver 60,852 | Dollar 74.64 | Euro 85.46 | GBP 101.05

Even with a civic body-led rejuvenation underway, KSPCB report reveals unsafe levels of coliform bacteria in Doddakallasandra Lake

CRY ME A LAKE

5 mg/litre chemical oxygen demand in D class waterbody

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The 25-acre Doddakallasandra Lake, which was taken up for rejuvenation by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) last year, still shows signs of contamination.

A report of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) indicated a marked increase in coliform bacteria in the waterbody.

According to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment, the amount of faecal matter in sewage is monitored through coliform count — a water quality parameter that acts as an indicator of pathogens that most commonly cause diarrhoea, typhoid and a host of enteric or intestinal diseases. While coliform is not a cause of illness, it does indicate pathogens of faecal origin such as bacteria, virus or protozoa.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the total coliform organism or MPN/100 ml (most probable number) for drinking water source, without conventional treatment but after disinfection, should be 50 or less.

For outdoor bathing, MPN/100 ml should be less than 500, and drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection, MPN/100 ml shall be 5,000 or less.

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High coliform indicates bad water quality. Sewage is entering the lake... pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity are good.

— Raghvendra B Pachhapur, ActionAid

PAGE 4

SURPRISE WINDFALL

How Vayu Vajras turned profitable for BMTc



PAGE 12

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

A swarm of bee-sized drones



9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Students

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Only ASIs are allowed to collect traffic fines: Top cop

Clarification comes after video of a police constable illegally collecting a fine goes viral

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Constables and head constables do not have the authority to collect traffic fines, and only officials who are assistant sub-inspectors and above can penalise traffic offenders, said Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) BR Ravikanth Gowda on Saturday. The clarification comes in the wake of a police constable who was caught collecting a fine illegally from a biker for wearing a non-ISI helmet.

At around 1 pm on February 4, police constable Pavan Dyamannanavar was spotted collecting fines from motorists for not wearing ISI helmets at the post office junction in HAL traffic police station limits.

Gowda said, "Dyamannanavar didn't have the authority to stop and collect a fine; he had misused his office and hence we have suspended him from duty pending inquiry. I want to inform the public that only those above ASI can collect the fine while police constable or head constable have no authority to do so."

The step was taken after a video went viral on how a constable was il-



City traffic police have been campaigning against non-ISI helmets

legally collecting fines. In fact, there have been complaints for a long time as to how a few personnel below ASI rank were stopping motorists. As many were unaware of the rules, motorists would pay up.

Gowda said: "For the last fortnight, we have been creating awareness on ill-effects of non-ISI helmets. I would like to reiterate that it is ad-

vised to wear ISI helmets by bikers for better protection."

The Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) has started the awareness campaign against all the substandard helmets worn by two-wheeler riders such as half-helmets, cap helmets or construction site helmets. The city traffic police are also in talks with helmet shops across the city to sell standard



On Feb 2, BM reported on the widely debated issue of ISI and non-ISI helmets

ISI helmets and refrain from selling cheap quality and substandard helmets.

The police will also keep a tab on the footpath hawkers who sell substandard helmets and initially warn them from selling and if they continue their business, they would be booked under IPC Section 283 for obstructing the footpath and their merchandise would be seized by the police. Campaigns by the traffic police are going on in full swing across the city with police personnel explaining to motorists if they could purchase a two-wheeler paying thousands and lakhs of rupees, why could they not afford a good quality helmet which would cost them somewhere between Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500.

Cops bust prostitution rackets in city salons

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) sleuths, on Saturday, busted prostitution rackets after raiding three spas and salons in Southeast Bengaluru. They rescued around 13 women including one from Turkey. The spas and salons situated in police limits of Ashok Nagar, HSR Layout and Madiwala offered body-to-body massage for around Rs 3,000 along with "other" services, a senior police officer stated.

The raids were carried out based on a tip-off and a team from the CCB raided the spas and salons and rescued women from Turkey, Nepal, Delhi, Nagaland, Assam, and West Bengal. The police registered a case against nine people running the spas in HSR Layout, Madiwala and Ashok Nagar.

The rescued women were sent to the state-run home, a rehabilitation centre of the government. After counselling, they will be sent to their hometowns, a senior police officer said. The accused operated the spas and salons in the garb of offering hair-cuts, hair colouring, body massages including Ayurvedic, and lured women mostly from the northern states on the pretext of offering them decent jobs here in the city and forced them into prostitution, another officer said.

— BMB

Man gives Rs 10-lakh bond for killing stray

The Karnataka police have taken a 10-lakh-rupee bond from Adi Narayana Naidu, grandson of former MP DK Adikeshavulu Naidu, for running over a street dog with his car. The accused was given a stern warning that if he indulges in case of animal cruelty in the future, he would be put behind bars, police said on Saturday. The 23-year-old accused had deliberately run his Audi over a street dog Lara in the limits of Siddapura police station in Bengaluru six days ago. The CCTV footage of the incident also went viral on social media triggering public outrage.

Later, animal activists who

lodged complaints against Adi in connection with the incident were threatened that they would meet the same fate as the street dog, which raised concerns among public. The police finally arrested the accused and released him on bail.

Harish Pande, DCP (South) told a media house that the accused was also warned that if he indulged in animal cruelty in the future, his bond amount would be forfeited and he would be imprisoned for the bond period which is one year.

Badrinath Margasahayam, former corporate consultant and animal activist who filed the complaint against the accused, said that it was the first time in the country that such a hefty amount was taken by the police in the case of animal cruelty. "Usually accused persons get away with paying a fine of Rs 200. Since we managed to get complete evidence, the accused was cornered," he said.

"It was found that on January 22 at 5 pm, the accused made an attempt to kill street dogs at the same place where a recent incident occurred with

a Black SUV. The police were given CCTV footage and evidence. The police have seized the vehicle and taken up a complaint against him," Badrinath explained.

Hundreds of animal lovers participated in the final rituals of Lara on Tuesday, the street dog, which was killed by the accused. Sandalwood actress-turned-politician Ramya also joined animal lovers.

Actress Ramya speaking after the cremation stated that while human beings do commit mistakes, in this case, the dog was run over deliberately. "Laws regarding animals are not strict in our country. The accused pay Rs 50 and come out. Empathy is not only for human beings, it should be there for animals too," she said.

"Firstly, the law has to be strengthened. People with deep pockets will escape from clutches of law," Ramya said.

The case has been filed under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, Section 11, IPC Section 428. Additional charges of issuing threat to life have also been added. — IANS



On Jan 31, BM reported on 3-year-old Lara who was intentionally run over

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BUSTIN' LOOSE

To everyone's surprise, BMTC's Vayu Vajra emerges profitable, sustainable and popular. Despite pandemic, it contributes 60 per cent revenue

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Vayu Vajra services, which ferries passengers from the airport to the city, has emerged as the most profitable service of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). Roughly 60 per cent of the corporation's revenue is being derived from this service.

Despite private cab services and the pandemic that caused a major dip in BMTC's ridership, the public's interest in Vayu Vajra services is evident. The Karnataka International Airport, located in Devanahalli, is roughly 30 kilometres away from the city and has continued to be a prominent service provider for first and last-mile connectivity commuters.

"What started as a pilot project connecting the newly built Bengaluru Airport (inaugurated in 2008) in the outskirts to the city centre, can now be deemed as a unique success in public transport infrastructure in India. Despite initial challenges, its thorough innovative schemes and strategies built up a transport model that has gained the confidence of travellers. Many travellers on the route, both from and to the airport, have 'shifted' their choice for buses from cars. i.e., the Vayu Vajra service has successfully positioned itself as a cheaper, comfortable and sustainable alternative to cars and taxis. It has succeeded in upscaling itself from an initial fleet of 40 buses to 101 buses" said Rohini Balasubramanian, scholar, Institute of Social and Economic Change.

She added that the service was perhaps the first of its kind, a bus model to connect the airport to the city in the country.



BMTC has expanded its initial fleet of 40 Vayu Vajra buses to 101

Between December and January, the corporation has acquired Rs 7,52,61,838 from Vayu Vajra services

Since the service is largely catered to particular income class- middle and higher-income population groups, BMTC has not suffered despite increasing ticket prices. This has also allowed them to expand their fleet to cater to the increasing demand.

"BMTC's Vayu Vajra set a precedent for transport systems. People travelling to and from airports use

cabs in most cases. High CO2 emissions per four-wheeler can be reduced with public transport. About 50 people can travel by bus," noted Balasubramanian.

Between December and January, BMTC has been able to rake Rs 7,52,61,838 from Vayu Vajra services. Its estimated daily earnings are Rs 2.5 crore. It is also a safer transport option for women. Female travellers prefer public transport, especially in the late hours.

"They were the first to be operated during the first wave and second wave. It has proved to be a great alternative for passengers who are primarily private vehicle users. This brought a bus lane into the picture. With a prioritised lane, users were

also prioritised which led to a shift in the mindset of the public about public transport. This also ensured reliability for users to reach destinations on time," said Sivasubramaniam Jayaraman, manager, transport systems, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy.

However, Jayaraman said that each transport system is only accessible to a particular group of people. "Metro trains remain to be the most convenient mode of transport in the city due to high reliability in terms of time and frequency. But there is also a significant difference between the fares of Metro and BMTC, which could be an obstacle in creating a truly multi-modal public transit system."

What's in the waterbody?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In Doddakallasandra Lake, however, the water sample showed much higher value at 350x102, showcasing a high amount of coliform bacteria, which does not qualify as safe.

Raghvendra B Pachhapur, resident of Doddakallasandra and ActionAid, India's programme manager, said: "The high value of coliform indicates bad water quality. Sewage is still entering the lake. Other parameters like pH, dissolved oxygen and conductivity are good."

The report also showed an increase in biochemical oxygen demand. Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) represents the amount of oxygen consumed by bacteria and other microorganisms while they decompose organic mat-

ter under aerobic conditions (when oxygen is present) at a specified temperature. The decay of organic matter in water is measured as biochemical or chemical oxygen demand.

If the BOD levels are between 1 and 2 mg/litre, it signifies very good water quality and there will not be much organic matter present in the water supply. A value between 3 and 5 shows moderately clean water. Doddakallasandra Lake has 5 mg/litre BOD.

"The BBMP has been clearing the water hyacinth, which absorbs all the phosphates and nitrates. The hyacinth grows fast and covers the entire lake surface; as a result, sunlight doesn't fall directly on the water and the lake is gradually deprived of oxygen, which leads to the death of fish. Now, with the

clearing of hyacinth, the lake is refreshed. However, sewage entering the lake should be stopped immediately," Pachhapur explained.

According to the report, Doddakallasandra Lake falls in the D class, which means the waterbody is best suited for propagation of wildlife and fisheries. The lake could not qualify for class A (drinking) or class B (bathing); class C indicates, with some treatment, water could be drinkable. Class E means the water can be used only for irrigation and industrial cooling purposes.

The residents pointed out that until last year over 106 lakes were monitored by the KSPCB; with the recent report, they wonder what is the next course of action: "Though lake rejuvenation is carried out by the BBMP, the civic body is not both-

ered about the water quality; they just maintain water in the lake. Even the KSPCB doesn't tell us what steps need to be taken regarding the water quality," said a resident.

Meanwhile, Doddakallasandra Lake Protection Committee (DLPC) had recently written to the BBMP lakes department, highlighting that more work still needs to be accomplished to regain the lake's lost biodiversity. The residents asked for rainwater harvesting to be carried out as well. However, their demands haven't been met yet.

"We asked the KSPCB to monitor more lakes. At least, with these reports, citizens can get to know the status of their neighbourhood lake and then work with the concerned officials to work on its betterment," added Pachhapur.

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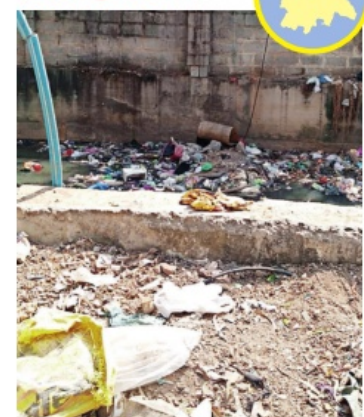
The road near Brigade Triumph, leading towards Amruthahalli, and its sidewalk are covered in garbage. BBMP workers have been sorting garbage here, which has been encouraging other folks to dump their waste here too. Although the spot is close to the police station, no action has been taken against the litterbugs.

Pick up pipelines
Malleswaram



The authorities concerned must remove the pipes lying on the 7th Main. These pipes were left at this spot a year ago but have not been moved since.

Wasted
Pottery Town



Folks have been dumping waste at this spot without being penalised. The authorities concerned must take action.

At Rs 4,000 per property, survey now costs a bomb

Jump from Rs 35 per survey is necessitated to offset losses: Official

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With the realty boom in the city, there is a huge demand for surveying of properties. However, now, surveying of properties will cost

dearly as the State Government has increased the application fee for the land survey from Rs 35 to Rs 4,000. The fee hike has been implemented from February 1 and many have opposed this move.

Earlier, people from both rural and urban areas had to pay an application fee of Rs 35 per survey. As per the new order, the area is categorised as urban and rural and the fee hiked up to Rs 4,000. The government is justifying the hike, stating that it was necessitated due to the increase in administrative and

“The hike is unnecessary when everyone is reeling under covid. This will hit everyone who is taking up survey or services

—Kuruburu Shanthakumar, farmer leader

management costs. “As the prices were not revised from the last four

decades, the hike was necessary,” said an official.

Currently, there are more than six lakh applications pending for surveying. The survey work is undertaken by 3,500 government surveyors and 3,000 private surveyors. The government has revised the service fee from Rs 800 to Rs 1,200 for the surveyors and hence to offset the losses, the survey fee has been hiked.

Defending the action, Additional director of Survey Department Sridhar said, “To balance the finan-

cial burden, it is essential to hike the price.” Under Secretary of Revenue Department S Gurumurthy said, “We were preparing to increase the fee for land survey for many years, but it was stopped due to the pandemic.”

Farmer leader Kuruburu Shanthakumar opposed the government's decision, “The hike is unnecessary when everyone is reeling under covid. The worst part is that it is a very steep hike and this will hit everyone who is taking survey services.”

All eyes on sin-tax evaders

Acting on a tip-off, Enforcement team intercepts and penalises goods truck for ferrying Rs 15L consignment without documents on State highway

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The Enforcement team of the State's Deputy Commissioner of Commercial Taxes recently detained a goods vehicle carrying a huge consignment of cigarettes without documents. On preliminary inquiries, the driver and the cleaner blurted out that the Tamil Nadu-registered truck was coming from Gujarat and was on its way to Tamil Nadu.

The Commercial Tax Department (CTD) of Karnataka keeps a tab on goods vehicles ferrying sin-taxed products like tobacco, gambling ventures, alcohol and cigarettes. “A sin tax is imposed on such goods and service which is equivalent to the value of the entire amount of the consignment printed as the maximum retail price (MRP) on its packs and the entire amount is collected as penalty from the consignee who is ferrying the goods with improper or no documents,” said a senior official of the Commercial Tax Department in Bengaluru.

The CTD enforcement wing had credible information of the truck and was awaiting its arrival on a highway in Belagavi and intercepted the truck. “The truck had a consignment of cigarettes worth over Rs 15 lakh (Rs 15,07,934 to be precise). The CTD officials penalised the consignee to recover the consignment. Legal proceedings were initiated under Section 130 and the penalty was levied and collected. As the consignee has obligations to deliver the



The Commercial Tax Department keeps a tab on goods vehicles ferrying sin-taxed products like tobacco and gambling ventures

Inspection of non-existent taxpayers

Enforcement officials of the CTD Karnataka have conducted around 172 inspections of non-existent taxpayers across the state and have busted fake e-way bill generation to the tune

of Rs 755.17 crores. GST registrations pertaining to these cases were cancelled and bogus claim of Input Tax Credit (ITC) of Rs 147.67 crores was prevented, a senior official told BM.

“If the consignee doesn't pay the fine, the consignment is put up for auction by the CTD and the penalty is recovered

—CTD official

goods to his consignor, he pays the penalty and releases his goods and takes them away,” said a senior CTD

official.

The loss they would tolerate as they have to keep up their name and repute in the market without hassles, the official added. “If the consignee does not pay up the penalty, the whole consignment will be put up for auction by the CTD and the penalty is recovered.”

The CTD has information that several transporters involve themselves in such misdemeanours and they ferry sin-taxed products at their own risks. If they escape, they get

full profit, or else, they have to pay up the penalty, another official pointed out.

In another incident, the Enforcement team of the CTD Davanagere detained a goods truck carrying GI pipes, electrical goods and confectionery without any documents and a penalty of Rs 18 lakh was levied and collected after legal proceedings were initiated under Section 130. This was again a Tamil Nadu registered lorry coming from a northern state.

On January 30, the enforcement team of CTD Davanagere detained a goods truck carrying confectionery, cosmetics and bags without any documents. Legal proceedings under Section 130 were initiated and a penalty of Rs 22.5 lakh was levied and collected from the consignee who paid up and took away his consignment.

Amazon reaches out to SHGs

E-commerce major Amazon and Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) tied up to help in boosting the business growth of Self Help Group (SHG) entrepreneurs through digital marketing.

The MoU would bring online customers in a big way for the products of SHGs and women entrepreneurs. The KSRLPS, through the Sanjeevini programme, would help the women entrepreneurs to exhibit and market their products through the digital marketing system.

The collaboration with e-commerce portals will make the products of Sanjeevini SHGs available for customers.

The facility will help in providing training for women entrepreneurs and for their empowerment through the 'Saheli' programme

Women entrepreneurs will get market at national level for their products through this MoU. The facility would help in providing training for women entrepreneurs and for their empowerment through the 'Saheli' programme. It would take products like household articles, home decoration products, food items and value added products made by SHGs and women entrepreneurs to an online market for customers all over the country.

To begin with 53 products are being marketed through Amazon. By the end of the current financial year it would be raised to 200 products. A warehouse (Saheli Centre) would be opened at the Sanjeevini KSRLPS Mysugar building. Skills development training would be provided for women entrepreneurs who have collaboration with Amazon.

A capacity building programme is being organised for product listing, brand building, packaging, shipping, accounts processing and customer services. The MoU is part of an ambitious programme to empower women economically by taking the products of the women SHGs to customers through the online mode.

12,009 new covid cases, 50 deaths in Karnataka

Karnataka on Saturday registered a further decline in daily coronavirus infections, as the state reported 12,009 new cases and 50 fatalities, taking the tally to 38,87,733 and toll to 39,300.

The state on Friday had reported 14,950 fresh infections.

There were 25,854 discharges today, taking the total number of recoveries to 37,39,197, a health

bulletin said. Of the new cases, 4,532 were from Bengaluru Urban that saw 10,420 people being discharged and 15 virus-related deaths.

The total number of active cases across the state is now 1,09,203.

While the positivity rate for the day stood at 9.04 per cent, the case fatality rate (CFR) was 0.41 per cent.

Of the 50 deaths, 15 are from Bengaluru Urban, Dakshina

Kannada (5), Mysuru (4), Kalaburagi (3), Ballari, Belagavi, Raichur, Shivamogga, Tumakuru, Udipi and Uttara Kannada (2), followed by others. After Bengaluru Urban, Belagavi recorded the second highest number of cases with 1,028, Mysuru 763, Ballari 481, Chitradurga 436, Shivamogga 419 and Hassan 413.

Bengaluru Urban district now

has a total of 17,53,636 cases, Mysuru 2,26,369 and Tumakuru 1,57,474. According to the bulletin, Bengaluru Urban tops the list among discharges with 16,91,234, followed by Mysuru 2,18,968 and Tumakuru 1,51,072.

Cumulatively, a total of 6,25,74,309 samples have been tested, of which 1,32,796 were on Saturday alone. —PTI

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

A JEWEL FROM MALNAD

"This flower which I found in a Sakleshpura resort is endemic in the biodiversity spots of Western Ghats. With dark pink florets emerging above the yellow petals it appears as if two flowers have sprung from the same stem."

The picture was clicked by reader
P Suryanarayana



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A health hazard called 80 Feet Road

Shreyashi Mukherjee
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The residents of Kodihalli have given up hope that they would be able to live in a locality where roads are walkable, has enough space for people to take their vehicles and is devoid of garbage.

The 80 Feet Road in Kodihalli has been in a pathetic condition for years now. There are potholes covering every inch of the road and illegally thrown garbage worsens the problem. A resident of the area, on the condition of anonymity, said: "There is a huge health hazard due to the garbage that is being dumped here. There is a constant stench and countless mosquitoes in the area. The road conditions are the worst. It is so bad that people cannot even walk on the road without tripping over rocks and injuring themselves."

Another resident of Maruti Paradise, a housing society in the area, said: "The garbage is right in front of our gate and a horrible smell comes in through the window. We are aged people; it is extremely difficult for us to walk on a road like this as the chances of hurting ourselves is very high."

The residents filed a complaint in the BBMP office. However, no action was taken.

Lavani Das, secretary of Maruthi Paradise, said: "We have been living here for quite some time now. Initially, the road



Potholes, mosquitoes, illegally strewn garbage are just some of the many issues

was not that bad. However, with time it has worsened. We cannot take our dog out for a walk also. While walking, we always have to be careful, because the moment we take our gaze away from the road, we will fall and injure ourselves." Another resident said, "Heavy-load vehicles like lorries move on this road which damage it further."

BWSSB fixes manhole

After our story 'Plenty of pothole perils for D'Souza road residents' appeared on Saturday, BWSSB officials were quick to visit the spot. Assistant Executive Engineer (South East-1) inspected the spot and said that the potholes were not an outcome of BWSSB work. However, they were quick to fix the issue on Saturday.



DID YOU KNOW?



Cubbon Park, officially known as Sri Chamarajendra Park, was originally created in 1870, when Major General Richard Sankey was the then British Chief Engineer of Mysore state. It covered an area of 100 acres and subsequent expansion has taken place and the area reported now is about 300 acres. This public park was first named as Meade's Park after Sir John Meade, the acting Commissioner of Mysuru in 1870 and subsequently renamed as Cubbon Park after the longest-serving commissioner of the time, Sir Mark Cubbon. To commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar's rule in Mysore State, in 1927, the park was again renamed as Sri Chamarajendra Park, in memory of the 19th-century ruler of the state Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar, during whose rule the park came into existence. (Wikipedia)

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAP THE CHATTER

where Bangaloreans speak their mind

Which segments were the most ignored and most taken care of in the Union Budget?



Gopal Shastry

BM Reader

Ignored segments in the Budget are: healthcare and wellness services, middle-income groups, senior citizens and education. Most taken care segments are: capital expenditure, digital currency, defence and start-ups.



D Babu

BM Reader

Authorities involved in the Budget have completely ignored the common man, working class, pensioners and senior citizens.



KL Subramanyam

BM Reader

The Union Budget 2022-23 is a progressive one. It will help digital services and focus on long-term growth. This type of budget is needed to encourage infrastructure and tourism. It has ignored the middle-income group.



Joseph F Benedict

Consulting Engineer

The segments mostly considered are defence, transport infrastructure, blockchain technology, chemical-free agricultural farming, digital economy in promoting startups. The state-run banks, health sector, coal and thermal power, automobile industry, real estate, reduction in custom duties were ignored.



Chetan Singh

BM reader

Ignored sectors were public sector banks. No lifeline for automobile manufacturers post Covid. Nothing for steel industry. Taken care is rise in allocation for sports, mental healthcare, capex funding & digital currency.

SPEAK TO US

What steps should the government take to promote mental health awareness?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Old school, new school

We take a look at how a Bengaluru NGO has been helping transform education at government schools

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The government high school in Agara in Bengaluru is abuzz on an usual sunny afternoon in December. It is recess time and the children are busy with conversation and games.

Just over three years ago, this school did not have electricity in one whole block. Drinking water was a problem and generally the school had a run-down look.

Between 2018 and 2019, an NGO called Bal Utsav, which had been working on creating model schools for years, brought about a big change in Agara's government school. "This school has around 800 students, in grades eight, nine and 10. When we first came here, an entire block did not have electricity. Between 2018 and 19, we got electricity for the school, added fans and lights, painted the buildings, and set up a water filter that does not depend on electricity," Neeti Mathur, director of people engagement, Bal Utsav, tells Bangalore Mirror.

The NGO also rolled out menstrual hygiene programmes where experts spoke to the girls. Vending machines for sanitary napkins too were set up at the school. "We have installed Smart TVs in the classrooms and provided the students with a school kit so they can practise what they learn at school back at home too. The kit contains books, pencils and all things they would need to study at home," Mathur adds.

On quality education

Bal Utsav, the brain child of Ramesh Balasundaram and his wife Binu Verma (inset), began the work of fixing all that could be wrong with schools in 2009.

Balasundaram and Verma always had the idea to do something with schools even during their courtship and they worked to breathe life into it soon

after they got married.

It all started with a question: "Why aren't children going to school?" The couple wanted to get down to the grassroots and change this.

"If we want to see a significantly better future, we have to start by empowering the children in schools and colleges today. Without education, the heart has neither hope nor direction," Balasundaram tells Bangalore Mirror.

The first step they took was identifying different groups within the larger group of 'out of school children'. "We found that the largest contributors to this group were those dwelling in urban slums and those whose parents work in construction sites, are daily wage workers, and followed suit. Lastly, we found that children in tribal pockets were the third largest contributors," Balasundaram says.

For about three years, 2011 onwards, the couple tried bringing education to these children by meeting them where they were. Bal Utsav was running museum schools for those in slums and taking teaching to construction sites too.

The organisation had identified large cities with museums and slums where children did not have access to education and worked with the museums to create curriculums for the children around the artefacts in the museum.

"These children haven't been to school in a while. If we started to explain concepts like concave and convex mirrors to them straight away, they wouldn't feel interested to learn because it would be difficult. We figured that we could take them to a museum where they saw themselves in different mirrors and understood these concepts themselves," Balasundaram said.

In 2014, the organisation partnered with the government to initiate the "school in school" model. The NGO took over unused classrooms in government schools, moved children from slums and construction sites nearby to house them in the schools and taught them.

Towards the end of 2014 Bengaluru witnessed incidents of child sexual abuse in some private schools.

"At the time, the state government released a set of guidelines to ensure child safety, which applied to all schools except government ones. We weren't a government school but our models were utilised in government ones. In April, 2015, an incident occurred in a government school where a similar model was being rolled out. A



If the state of these (govt) schools leaves so much to be desired for, imagining a better future for the country is difficult

girl child went missing for over 24 hours and was later found floating in the water tank of the school. This raised several questions for us. The incident at

Covid times

Being uniquely placed with the advantage of stressing on technology, the NGO was poised to handle the disruption that covid caused to education. Over the pandemic, the organisation anticipated that schooling might take a hit, especially in villages and developed smart infrastructure with the help of smart devices and Ed-tech content to continue learning in rural schools in school campuses or remotely at homes in the form of community learning.

Last year, post the first wave, Bal Utsav's government schools in Shivamogga district and neighbouring villages saw a 15 per cent increase in enrollments. These schools in smaller towns like Kallahalli, Dum-malli, and Nidige were equipped with Smart TVs that came preloaded with educational content, teachers were equipped with tablets to conduct classes within the community and some children also learned via mobile phones at home. Families that owned smartphones were given permissions or the license to download class portions for their child.

the private school had garnered a lot more attention. Are the lives of those in government schools not as significant?" he says.

According to Balasundaram, of the around 15 lakh schools in India, 13 lakh are government schools. "If the state of these schools leaves so much to be desired for, imagining a better future for the country is difficult," he says.

This led the organisation to design their model schools. After working in the public education space for five years, the NGO came up with four nonnegotiables to focus on: Infrastructure (classrooms, toilets, libraries, etc.) and softer infrastructure (lights, books, fans, etc.), normalising a balanced student and teacher ratio per school and equipping teachers with the right skills and scholarships to ensure that students can continue their education and look forward to a future (at the moment the NGO is able to provide for the top one per cent of their classes, but they hope to help more) and WSH (water, sanitation and hygiene).

The first model school took off in 2015. Later the NGO extended the model to smaller schools.

"We realised that there are many differences between small and larger schools. Therefore, we decided to apply a modified version of it to the smaller schools and we separated model schools in iShaalas (for smaller schools) and Sampurna Shaalas (larger schools)," Balasundaram explains.

Bal Utsav works with over 200+ government schools in Karnataka and has touched the lives of nearly 8,00,000 students through its programmes.

The focus is on all-round development. Like in the school in Agara BM visited, sports has been a big pull for the kids. The sports coach at the school explains how it all worked out.

"Earlier the girls would feel embarrassed to play in their uniforms. I realised that a team jersey could make all the difference. Bal Utsav provided us with all the equipment and the jerseys required for our sports activities. The girls felt motivated to participate in competitions, even with private school students. They felt proud and united," the coach tells us.

According to the coach, the NGO also helps the school organise sports competitions and meets for the students. "I've divided the students into different houses too to keep up the competitive spirit. Bal Utsav has been helping the school give the best education to its students in all ways," the coach says.



To B or not to B

Mysuru City Corporation wants to add properties without any Khatas to the B register to acquire income from taxes. Will government approve?

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While the state government has proposed to promote B Khata site holders to the A Khata group in Bengaluru, in Mysuru the authorities are hoping to provide the B Khata to those who do not hold a khata at all.

Recently, the Mysuru City Corporation has approved a proposal to provide B Khata to the 50,000 revenue houses within Mysuru.

If the government approves this proposal, the corporation will acquire Rs 25 crore as revenue from these properties yearly.

There are many properties that were in the corporation's limits without any khata or tax records. But the corporation has provided them with water, underground drainage, cleanliness, street lights, roads, parks, and other basic amenities.

The houses which belong to revenue are not fetching any revenue to the corporation.

The council discussed this issue in a recent meeting and approved the proposal to provide the khataless B Khatas and the proposal was sent to the government.

As of now, only 10 per cent revenue layouts are registered in the sub-registrar's office and fetching tax for the corporation.

About B Khatas

Most houses in the city were purchased with a Rs 100 or Rs 500 stamp paper.

Residents who have been living



Ten per cent revenue layouts are registered in the sub-registrar's office and fetching tax for the MCC

In Mysuru, 50,000 houses do not have Khatas. The corporation does not gain any income from these properties — Lakshmikanth Reddy, Commissioner, MCC

in their homes for many years must provide their gas or electricity bills, so officials can verify the location of their property and a newspaper notification will be published to state that the property is in the process of entering the B Khata list in the corporation. When no objections are

received from the public, the property will be registered in the B register and a property ID number will be issued.

The Mysuru City Corporation mayor, commissioner, and 25 corporators visited BBMP and observed that the civic body is issuing B Khatas and acquiring revenue. So, they planned to implement B Khatas in Mysuru.

If the government approves a property under the Akrama-Sakrama scheme, a B Khata can be converted to an A Khata. As per the KMC Act 1976, the city corporation can levy a tax on buildings and empty spaces in its jurisdiction. Once it is given, the revenue landowners who are suf-

fering from a lack of loan facilities from the bank can also be benefited.

Commissioner of the Mysuru City Corporation Lakshmikanth Reddy said, "Here, 50,000 houses do not have Khatas. The corporation does not gain any income from these properties. If they are added to the B register, landowners will get documents and the corporation will receive tax. This will increase our income by 20 per cent".

Shivakumar, a corporator, said, "The corporation is providing basic facilities to revenue layouts. But there is no income. Once they are recorded in the B register the corporation will get income and owners also will get the record".

'Kabir of Kannada' no more

Renowned religious orator and Padma Shri awardee Ibrahim Sutar, who had earned the recognition of Kabir of Kannada, died due to cardiac arrest in Bagalkote district on Saturday.

The government has ordered his last rites to be performed with full state honours.

According to family sources, he suffered a heart attack this morning and was rushed to the nearby hospital, but could not be saved.



Ibrahim Sutar

Sutar was 81 and is survived by wife, a son and two daughters.

Born on May 10, 1940, Sutar studied up to Class 3, but his craving for spirituality led him to study Hindu scriptures besides Islamic books. He always emphasised upon the religious harmony between Hindus and Muslims.

Condoling his death, CM Basavaraj Bommai said Sutar was a symbol of religious harmony.

Union minister Pralhad Joshi, ministers in the Bommai government and former chief ministers Siddaramaiah, BS Yeddyurappa and HD Kumaraswamy joined many others to mourn Sutar's death.

Family ostracised

The family of a man who married a Dalit woman has been ostracised and a fine of Rs 5,000 imposed on people who interact with him in Lingadahalli of Tarikere taluk here.

Not only this, the family has been banned from entering temples, working in other agricultural fields and local community members have fenced their ancestral property. Somashekar belonging to Uppar community fell in love with a woman from Dalit caste and got married to her resisting opposition. Soon after, the village community members issued a "boycott" diktat.

Somashekar complained that he is not allowed to enter the temple. "I got married to a woman I was in love with. What is the problem with community members?"

Unable to bear the humiliation, his family has decided to embrace Islam. "We have decided to get converted to Christianity as we cannot put up with torture by community elders any more. Hindu organisation leaders who came to know about this have stopped us and assured us of relief," he says.

— IANS

Can't wear hijabs in institutions: Govt

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With regard to the hijab controversy, the primary and secondary education department issued an order on Saturday that students must wear only uniforms in educational institutions.

The order stated, "Students studying in government schools should mandatorily wear uniforms (issued by government) to their schools. In colleges, where there is no uniform, the decision is up to the college development committee. In case of no prescribed uniforms, students are directed to wear dresses which exhibit equality and integrity without bringing any conflict to the public order."

In connection to the hijab row, in Karnataka, the ruling party BJP stood strongly in support of uniform-related rules followed by educational institutions, calling the headscarf, a



Campus Front of India stages a protest against St Agnes College, Mangaluru for denying entry to students wearing hijab

religious symbol, while the opposition, Congress, stood in support of the fundamental rights of Muslim women.

In several instances in coastal Karnataka Muslim students wearing hijabs were not allowed in classes and Hindu students, men in particular, wore saffron shawls to protest against hijabs.

The issue initially began in January when in a government PU college in Udupi, six students attended classes clad in headscarves, violating the dress code and were sent out.

Meanwhile, Congress leader and former chief minister Siddaramaiah, in support of the right of Muslim women, accused BJP and RSS of trying to create communal disharmony

in the state. He urged the chief minister to pull the brakes on this and arrest those who instigated the public.

Meanwhile, BJP state president and member of parliament Nalin Kumar Kateel said the government will not allow hijabs in educational institutions and will take strict measures to ensure that things go as per rules and added that the government won't let things turn "Taliban like".

"There is a BJP government in this state, there is no room for hijabs or any other related incidents. Schools are temples of mother Saraswathi. Everyone should abide by rules and regulations there. Bringing religion there is not right, what students need is education, if someone can't follow rules they can choose their path elsewhere," he said.

The Karnataka High Court on February 8 will hear petitions filed by five women studying in a government PU College in Udupi, regarding the questioning of hijab restriction in colleges.

—With inputs from agencies

'India commits to net zero emission by 2070'

PM says Pro Planet People movement is crucial to combat climate change, and connects every individual with climate

#Hyderabad

On the occasion of the 50th-anniversary celebrations of the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Prime Minister Narendra Modi said "India has set a target of Net-Zero emission by 2070." "India has set a target of Net-Zero by 2070. We have also highlighted the need for lifestyle for the environment and also called for a Pro Planet People movement - a movement that is crucial to combat climate change and connects every individual with climate," PM Modi said.

Prime Minister on Friday kick-started the 50th-anniversary celebrations of the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Patancheru, Hyderabad.

He inaugurated (ICRISAT)'s Climate Change Research Facility on Plant Protection and Rapid Generation Advancement Facility and also launched a commemorative stamp issued in Hyderabad.

While addressing the event, the Prime minister said CRISAT has experience of five decades of helping other nations in making agriculture easy and sustainable. "CRISAT has experience of 5 decades of helping other nations in making agriculture easy and sustainable," Modi said.

"I am hopeful that they will continue to deliver their expertise to strengthen India's 'Krishi' sector," he said at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of ICRISAT. Talking about farmers and their challeng-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils the 'Statue of Equality, a 216-foot tall statue of 11th-century saint Ramanujacharya, in Hyderabad

es from climate changes, Prime Minister said that the Union Budget 2022-23 is focused on natural farming and digital agriculture. "To save our farmers from climate challenge, our focus is on the fusion of both back to basics and march to future. Our focus is on more than 80% of small farmers of the country who need us the most. The Union Budget 2022-23 is focused on natural farming and digital

agriculture," PM Modi said. "In the next few years, we want to take area usage in the palm oil sector to 6.5 lakh hectares... We are focusing on food security as well as nutrition security. We have developed several bio-fortified varieties in the last 7 years," he said. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister watched an exhibition at the ICRISAT campus in Patancheru, Hyderabad.

- ANI

Third wave to ebb by March: ICMR



A healthcare worker carrying her daughter, prepares to give a dose of covid vaccine to a villager in Rajkot

#New Delhi

Additional director-general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Dr Samiran Panda on Friday said the third wave of Covid was likely to wane by February-end in Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal.

"The peak of cases encountered in these states will come down to the base level by the end of this month itself. An overall decline in Covid cases in the country is expected by March," he said.

Epidemiologist Dr Chandrakant Lahariya also told TOI that the third wave across the country was expected to end in the next three-four weeks. "With Omicron dominating 90% of the cases and Delta being only about 10%, the rise and fall in cases being witnessed is the trend across the world," he said.

According to the mathematical model-based pro-

jection by the ICMR, the entire peak and fall in cases in these states would be achieved within this month.

The chronic model developed by the ICMR and Imperial College London projects that India may reach the stage of endemicity of Covid by mid-March this year.

The overall disease epidemiology indicates that the epidemic is heading towards a stable situation. "If newer variants of concern of SARS-CoV-2 do not appear in future, things may get well under control. A shift is being noted from the epidemic to the endemic stage," Dr Panda said. He said the states and the districts registering a high number of cases by early January were now seeing gradual decline in infections. "We can say the surge will decline by the end of February," he said.

— Nisha Nambiar, TNN

Tweak suggested to pvt med college fee

#New Delhi

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has decided that the fees of 50 per cent seats in the private medical colleges and deemed universities should be on par with that of government medical colleges of that particular state and Union Territory.

An office memorandum by NMC stated that the benefit of this fee structure would be first made available to those candidates who have availed

government quota seats but limited to the extent of 50 per cent of the total sanctioned strength of the institute.

However, if the government quota seats are less than 50 per cent of total sanctioned seats, the remaining candidates would avail the benefit of having to pay a fee equivalent to that in government medical colleges, based purely on merit, the February 3 memo stated.

According to Section 10(1)

(i) of the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019, the panel shall frame guidelines for determination of fees and all other charges for 50 per cent of seats in private medical institutions and deemed to be universities governed under the provisions of this legislation.

The Centre had requested the erstwhile Board of Governors in supersession of erstwhile MCI to prepare the draft fee fixation norms

for the consideration of the NMC as and when constituted. An Expert panel was constituted by the BoG-MCI on November 23, 2019, and later, by the NMC. The expert panel recommended 26 broad draft guidelines for the determination of fees for MBBS and PG courses and other charges for private medical colleges and deemed to be universities. The norms were uploaded to the NMC Website on May 25 last year.

- PTI

Mahatma Gandhi's statue vandalised in New York

#New York

A life-sized bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi was vandalised in a New York City neighbourhood on Saturday, an act strongly condemned as 'despicable' by the Consulate General of India here.

The 8-foot-high statue, located in Manhattan's Union Square, was defaced by some unknown persons, the Consulate General of India said.

"The Consulate condemns this act of vandalism in the strongest terms," it said, adding that the matter has been taken up with local authorities. "The matter has also been taken up with the US State Department for immediate investigation and urged appropriate action against those responsible for this despicable act," it said.

The incident has shocked the Indian-American community here.

The statue was donated by the Gandhi Memorial International Foundation, and was dedicated on October 2, 1986 to mark the 117th birth anniversary of Gandhi. American civil rights leader Bayard Rustin had delivered a keynote speech at the ceremony. Incidentally, the statue was removed in 2001, conserved and reinstalled in a landscape garden area in 2002. This is not the first time a statue of Gandhi has been desecrated in the US.

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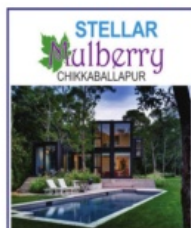
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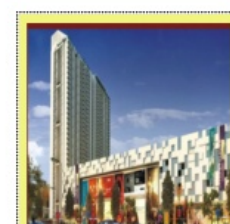
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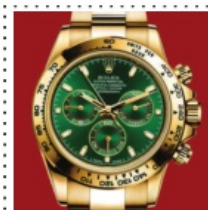
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BOUNDARIES IN METAVERSE

Facebook owner Meta adds tool to guard against sexual harassment

Elizabeth Culliford

Facebook's parent Meta Platforms said on Friday it is launching a tool for people using its virtual reality social platforms to maintain personal space boundaries, as concerns have mounted about user safety and sexual harassment in the metaverse.

Its new "personal boundary" tool will make users feel like they have nearly four feet (1.2 meters) between their virtual avatar and others when they access the immersive Horizon Worlds and Horizon Venues apps through VR headsets.

The company said in a blog post that this new default setting would make it easier to avoid unwanted interactions. The change comes as users of VR platforms including Horizon Worlds have raised alarms about virtual groping and other abusive behavior.

Facebook Inc changed its name to Meta, and has invested heavily in virtual and augmented reality to reflect its new bet on the metaverse, a futuristic idea of a network of virtual environments accessed via different devices where users can work, socialize and play. Horizon Worlds, an expansive VR social platform, and Horizon Venues, which is focused on virtual events, are early iterations of metaverse-like spaces.

Shares of Meta, which is pouring billions of dollars into its metaverse ambitions, plummeted 26% on Thursday in the biggest single-day slide in market value for a U.S. company, after the social media giant issued a dismal forecast, blaming Apple Inc's privacy changes and increased competition.

The company has long been under scrutiny from global lawmakers and regulators over its handling of problematic content and abuses on its existing social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

Meta said the new tool built on



File photo of a visitor in front of a 'metaverse' art installation which will be converted into NFT and auctioned online at Sotheby's, in Hong Kong

Take that break from Insta

To help young people better manage their Instagram experience, the Meta-owned photo-sharing platform on Friday launched the 'Take a Break' in all countries, including India.

'Take a Break' is a feature that will show up for people, as they have been scrolling for a certain amount of time. "The wellbeing of young people is important to us, and we are focused on ensuring that the time spent on Instagram is intentional and people feel good about it," Natasha Jog, Public Policy Manager, Instagram, Facebook India, said in a statement.

its current "hand harassment measures," where an avatar's hands would disappear if they invaded someone's personal space. It also currently has a "Safe Zone" feature where people can activate a bubble around their avatar if they feel threatened.

Meta's vice president of Horizon

"With this context, we have launched 'Take a Break', to meaningfully improve the experience on Instagram for young people, parents and guardians," she added. In this feature, users will be asked to take a break from the app and suggest that they set reminders to take more breaks in the future.

They will also be shown expert-backed tips to help them reflect and reset. To make sure that young people are aware of this feature, they will be shown notifications suggesting they turn these reminders on. "We aim to continue our work to create a safe and supportive environment on Instagram, so young people can

use it to explore their interests, and find community," Jog said.

The reminders build on Instagram's existing time management tools including Daily Limit, which lets people know when they have reached the total time they want to spend on the app each day and offers the ability to mute notifications.

'Take a Break' was first launched in the US, the UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, and it is now available for everyone globally.

The feature a 'Take a Break' will be available on iOS immediately and will roll out to Android in a few weeks.

Vivek Sharma said in the blog that the company believed the new personal boundaries would help set "behavioral norms."

"It's an important step, and there's still much more work to be done. We'll continue to test and explore new ways to help people feel comfortable in VR," said Sharma.

He said in the future, Meta would look at the possibility of adding in controls like letting people change the size of their personal boundary.

For now, the company noted users will have to "extend their arms to be able to high-five or fist bump other people's avatars." — Reuters

Scientists buzzing over bee-sized drone that flaps wings

British scientists have created "bumblebee-sized" drones with flapping wings, opening up new uses for the technology.

The tiny robots fly like insects thanks to an artificial muscle system called Laza, which does away with heavy gears and motors.

It means they will be able to reach places other drones cannot. They could be used in search and rescue operations after disasters and may even help save the planet by helping plants reproduce.

Project leader Professor Jonathan Rossiter from the Bristol University team, said:

"They would perform critical tasks such as plant pollination and roles such as finding people in collapsed buildings."

Dr Tim Helps, who developed the Laza system, said it would "unlock a new class of low-cost, lightweight flapping micro-air vehicles".

—Daily Mirror



BITS & BYTES

TESLA VEHICLE WITH FSD BETA REPORTEDLY RUNS INTO POLE



Tesla vehicle using Full Self-Driving (FSD) Beta has been caught on video running into a pole in what could be the first accident on the FSD Beta, media report says.

According to the auto-tech website Electrek, last month, CEO Elon Musk was claiming that Tesla's FSD Beta had yet to have an accident in over a year into the programme.

That is despite a Model Y owner in the FSD Beta claiming in a complaint to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that the system caused a crash, but the complaint could not be confirmed.

Now, a FSD Beta driver going by AI Addict on Youtube posted a new video where the car ran into a pole that protects the bike lane.

"It was a small accident that only caused a little paint damage, but it technically crashed into an object," the report said.

APPLE MIGHT UNVEIL FIRST 5G SUPPORTED IPHONE SE IN MARCH

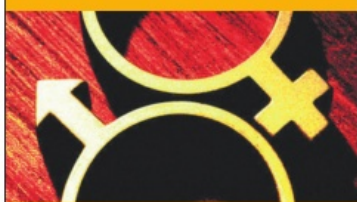


American tech giant Apple might be planning to reveal a new low-cost iPhone SE with 5G, as well as a refreshed iPad Air that adds a new CPU and 5G for cellular-equipped models.

According to The Verge, a reliable source for Apple rumours has provided the news, and also divulged that the company is targeting March 8 for a spring event to show off these gadgets.

Rumours of an update for the iPhone SE have been around since before the iPhone 13 launched, and now reports suggest that people should expect to see a faster chip and improved cameras inside a shell that's similar to the existing model that has a 4.7-inch screen.

The current iPhone SE was introduced in 2020, and its USD 399 price is the same now as it was on launch day, so an A15 CPU and 5G could make it a much better value. There's no word on the fate of Touch ID, but without a design update, that seems unlikely to change.



BEST OF DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I'm a 36-year-old man and my girlfriend is 27. My girlfriend never takes the initiative when we engage in sexual intercourse. She just lies there like a log of wood. She says she feels extremely shy. What should I do? Rather than intercourse, perhaps you could start by touching her over the body and by holding her genital and breast area. By this way she will reach orgasm and probably get over her shyness. To enhance your knowledge on the subject, read the book *It's Normal* available online.

2 I'm a 44-year-old and have been separated from my wife for a while. I occasionally have casual sexual encounters with a female friend of mine. Lately, I have developed an attraction to a young colleague who is 28 years old. We are very friendly and sometimes flirt as well. It's not just sexual attraction. What I feel runs deeper than that. However, due to the age factor, I am nervous about asking her out. What should I do? Since you are already involved with a partner, I would advise you to continue the way you are doing and keep the new relationship friendly, as it is now.

3 I am 25 years old and my husband is 29. We enjoy a good sex life, and often indulge in oral sex, and consume a lot of semen/fluid. Although I enjoy this, I crave intercourse, which my husband avoids. Will the consumption of semen/fluid affect our health? Will it lead to throat cancer? Once, during the act, I smelt his semen and it smelt like cut okra. Does that mean anything? If there is an infection in the throat, then oral sex can prove to be a problem. No harm swallowing semen. Regarding the smell, your husband could undergo a culture test to indicate infection.

MEET THE SEXPERTS

Use this QR code to send your questions to us



PASTA ON YOUR MIND?

Cook up a storm in the kitchen with these pasta recipes that are soul food



PAPPARDELLE ALA CONTADINA

INGREDIENTS:

- Pappardelle
- Large egg yolk - 2
- All-purpose flour - 50-70 gm
- Olive oil - 1 tsp
- Salt: to taste

Sauce

- Roma tomatoes - 3
- White onion chopped - 10 gm
- Olive oil
- Freshly minced garlic - 5 cloves
- Fresh basil leaves

For tossing

- Butter - 20 gm
- Garlic - 5 gm
- White pepper to taste
- Salt to taste
- Parmesan - 30 gm
- Cherry tomatoes - 10
- Sliced black olive - 10 gm
- Asparagus - 10 gm

METHOD:

Prepare dough

- Take flour, put it on tabletop, and make small cavity in the centre to

add egg yolk and salt. Start combining the ingredients together and make a dough. Add olive oil once dough is almost ready. Rest for 15 minutes covered in chiller.

Shaping Pappardelle

- Take a rolling pin and start making dough into thin sheets. Cut them into 10 inch long, 2 inch wider with the help of knife. Pasta will start taking shape of ribbons. Dust some flour to keep them separate.

Boiling

- Bring to boil enough water with salt and add Pappardelle. Once it is cooked, it will start floating. You can strain, set aside and drizzle some olive oil to prevent sticking.

Sauce

- Take pan and add some olive oil, once the pan is hot start adding minced garlic and chopped onion. Once the onion is translucent, add chopped roma tomatoes and stir on medium heat. When it will start taking shape of sauce after cooking for 15 minutes add seasoning, fresh basil and set aside.

Cooking

- Heat a pan with butter and add minced garlic on medium heat. Add asparagus, cherry tomato, and black olive into the pan along with boiled pappardelle. Add seasoning to taste and other side reheat the sauce and serve hot with finely grated parmesan cheese on top.

Prep Time:
20-25 mins
Cooking Time:
8-10 mins
Serves 2

TAGLIATELLE PISTA PESTO



INGREDIENTS

- Dough
- Flour - 200gm
- Semolina flour - 50gm
- Whole Egg - 3
- Salt - 1gm

Pesto

- Pistachio (peeled & toasted) - 50gm
- Extra virgin olive oil - 70ml
- Basil leaf - 3nos
- Garlic cloves - 2
- Parmesan cheese - 20 gm
- Buratta - 30gm
- Pancetta - 30gm

METHOD

For pasta

- Shape the flour into a volcano with a large hole in the centre, then crack the eggs and pour them into the middle.
- Using a fork lightly beat the eggs and then mix in the flour a little at time. It is essential that the flour be gradually beaten into the eggs to ensure the walls of the volcano do not break too soon.
- Bring the mixture together with a spatula and your hands until you obtain a consistent dough.
- Work the dough with the heel of your hand for 10-15 minutes, or until the mixture is smooth and very elastic. Wrap the dough in cling film and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
- Dust a wooden board with 1 tbsp of flour. Unwrap the dough and flatten it with a rolling pin. Roll out the dough into thin pasta sheets, less than 1mm thick.
- If you have a pasta machine, divide the dough into 4 before rolling it out.
- To cut the pasta sheets into tagliatelle, roll the sheets up and cut into large 0.75cm strips. Unravel the cut tagliatelle strips and twirl into little nests. Dust the nests liberally with flour to stop them from sticking.

Cooking

- Slice the pancetta & cook in a non-stick pan until slightly golden brown in color & crispy.
- Remove half of the pancetta separately and keep half pancetta in the pan.
- In a pot take water and little salt and let it boil.
- Once water is boiling, put pasta and boil it for around 3-4 min.
- Then transfer the pasta to the pan with pancetta, add little cooking water and finish cooking string the pasta.
- Once cooked add pistachio pesto and stir nicely.
- In plate, arrange pasta, the remaining pancetta, buratta and some basil leaves for garnish.

Prep Time:
25 mins
Cooking Time:
40 mins
Serves 1

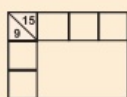


By Chef Debashis, Chef De Cuisine,
JW Marriott Bengaluru

By Ramakrishnan D, Chef De Partie, JW Marriott Bengaluru

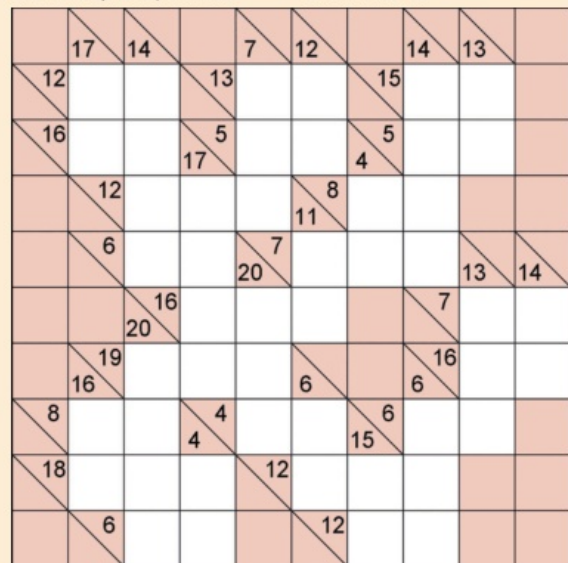
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

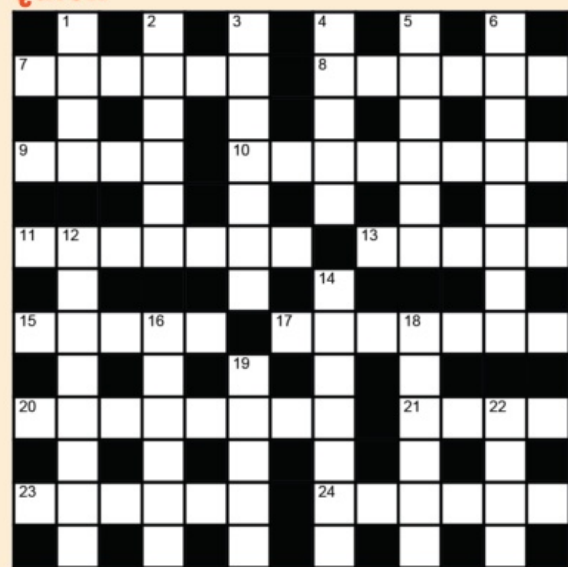


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Sentries (6)
- 8 Noisy quarrel (6)
- 9 At the home of, in French (4)
- 10 Musical (8)
- 11 Competent; dexterous (7)
- 13 Silly or idiotic (5)
- 15 Up to now (2,3)
- 17 Embarked (7)
- 20 Ex-P.M. of India (1,1,6)
- 21 Hardens or sets (4)
- 23 Magnificent (6)
- 24 Male bees (6)

DOWN

- 1 Make or become silent (4)
- 2 South American country (6)
- 3 Neck of land (7)
- 4 Blazing (5)
- 5 Strand (6)
- 6 Card game for one (8)
- 12 Eliminate (5,3)
- 14 Conspire for illegal gains (7)
- 16 Charm; talisman (6)
- 18 Popular vegetarian Italian restaurant on Krishna Rajendra road (6)
- 19 Race or breed (5)
- 22 Wine sediment (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS P
NCF GFJGPF ICJ CRXF YFRPPD
SROF CVKNJYD RYF NCF
SRYNDYK.



Linemaro

Your husband will be lucky to have a woman like you. You are so caring



Mindchow

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower



Joke of the day

Sign in a cemetery: Persons Are Prohibited From Picking Flowers From Any But Their Own Graves

Loop

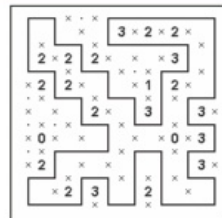
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

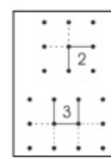
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

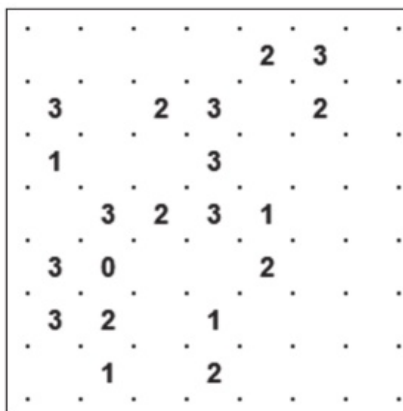
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



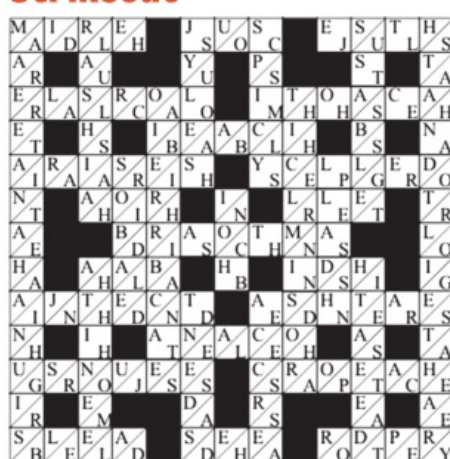
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

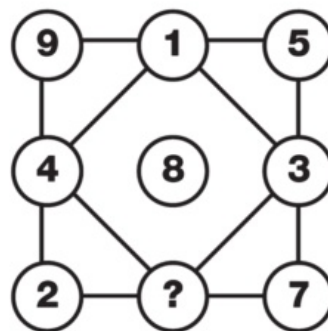
- 1 Lumps; 6 Helot;
- 7 A tout; 8 Apter;
- 9 Steer

DOWN

- 1 Athos; 2 Up Leo;
- 3 Re tut; 4 Retem;
- 5 Splat

Mensapuzzle

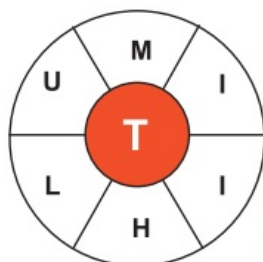
Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding



SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



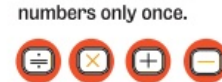
Easy

$\square \square \square \square = 6$

$\square \square \square \square = 5$

$\square \square \square \square = 13$

$\square \square \square \square = 13$



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Name tag is missing. 2. TV is smaller. 3. Arm is longer. 4. Woman's nose is different. 5. Collar is different. 6. Pocket is missing.

Riddler

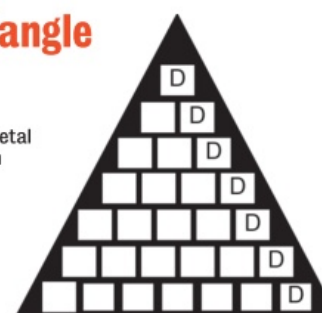
Female kangaroos carry their young (joey) in a pouch. Likewise, kangaroo words contain another word (a joey) within themselves. A joey word is a synonym of the kangaroo word, and the letters must be in the same order. Example: "rapsallion" contains the word "rascal". RAPSCALLION See if you can find the joey words in these kangaroo words: 1. municipality 2. charisma 3. damsel

Alpha triangle

- 1 Vitamin type
- 2 Anno Domini
- 3 Young boy
- 4 Sheathed with metal
- 5 Spiked the punch
- 6 Climbed
- 7 Held tightly

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made

at each step answering to the clue given.

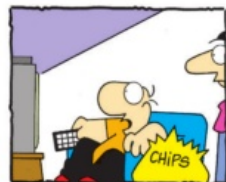


COMICS

The BETTER HALF

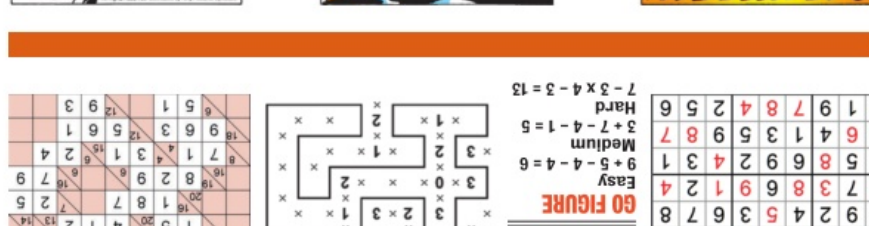
by GLASBERGEN

Featuring HARRIST STANLEY PARKER



BABY BLUES

BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today will not be a good day due to anxiety and restlessness. You may waste precious time in doing worthless tasks. You may plan to visit some religious place for seeking peace of mind. You may get some advice from your elders which may give you direction to manage a messy situation.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, your moon will not be in a good position; you may have health issues. You may face losses in business or in investment. It is advised not to invest in business. Your gains will convert to losses. So, you are advised to stop making investments in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies, otherwise it will pull you down negatively.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may feel dull; you may face obstacles on the work front. You should be patient in making investments. Quick decisions in business are not advisable today. You are likely to spend money on worthless stuff, which may make your family unhappy.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, social get-togethers are on the cards; you will re-establish your network, which will make give you benefits in the near future. Natives related to glamour, art, fashion may plan to do something new in terms of profession. Students may perform better today in terms of studies. Lovebirds will enjoy their happy moments.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

You will be blessed by the moon today; you may expect to hear some good news in terms of profession. Domestic life is likely to be in full swings of joy. You are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics. Overexcitement may test your patience. You can take important decisions in making investments in real estate. Students may be focused in their studies.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, your hard work may pay you in terms of success. You may plan to go for short work-related visits. Your subordinates may support you in implementing your business plans. Your opponents may praise your hard work. You may hear good news in terms of siblings.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you may be busy on the work front which may make you tired and you may be not able to get proper time for family get-togethers. You may be able to build some overseas network also. You should be careful in terms of investments. Natives in the job may get a promotion.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

You will feel some dullness but somehow you are likely to get back to work. You may pay extra attention to kid's academics. You are likely to be in a winning position against enemies and opponents. Investors shall be careful while taking difficult decisions. Job-seekers may find a suitable job.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless stuff. You are likely to plan for investing capital in the business. You may invest your savings into some real estate project, which will boost your financial health in the near future. You may be polite with others. You may be able to focus on domestic affairs but your spouse will be upset or have some health issues.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, the situation will be under control now. Your destiny is likely to be with you in terms of gains in business. You may get some rewards for your hard work. It may be a good time to reinstate your postponed projects. You may expect peaceful religious travel. You may also plan to donate some amount to any religious place or to some charity.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may find negative vibrations around you which may make you unhappy; you should avoid making investments in worthless assets. You may notice that your friends may not be supportive today. So, you should not expect more from them for help; otherwise, it may make you more upset. You should take independent decisions today.

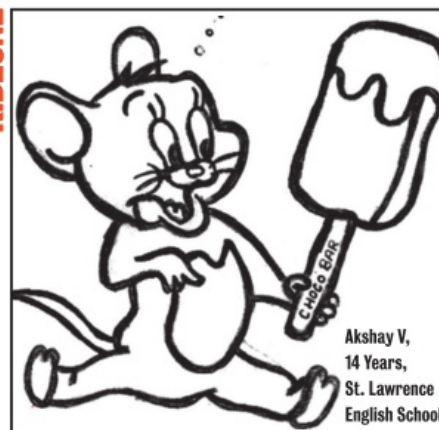


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may have good vitality and inner strength. You are likely to make good plans and implement them efficiently but you should carefully read documents before putting a signature. Due to over enthusiasm, you may invest some capital into family business. Lovebirds should avoid discussing worthless topics.



KIDZONE



Akshay V,
14 Years,
St. Lawrence
English School



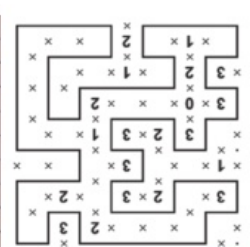
Pradeep S,
13 Years,
St. Lawrence
English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

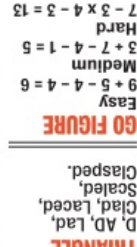
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

STARRY DEALS

Check out how celebs cash in on star power to sell their old homes at whopping prices

Lata Mangeshkar undergoing aggressive therapy: Doctor

Earlier on Saturday there were reports that Lata Mangeshkar's health has deteriorated and that she was put on ventilator support. Doctor Pratit Samdani provided an update on her health on Saturday evening and stated that the singer is undergoing aggressive therapy and responding well to treatment. "Singer Lata Mangeshkar is in the ICU. She continues to be under aggressive therapy and is tolerating the procedures well at this moment," Dr Pratit Samdani,



who is treating her at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital, said in a statement. Earlier today, when ETimes reached out to Dr Samdani, he confirmed the development and said, "Lata ji is under strict observation. She remains in a delicate condition."

Lata Mangeshkar was admitted to a Mumbai hospital in early January, after she tested positive for Covid-19 and was also diagnosed with pneumonia. Lata Mangeshkar had mild symptoms and was admitted to the ICU. Around January 28, the singer was taken off the ventilator after she showed slight signs of improvement. —ETimes

No dance numbers, thank you!



Priyamani featured in the dance number '1234 Get on The Dance Floor' of the film 'Chennai Express' starring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone.

Talking about why she refused to feature in any dance song after SRK's film to a website, the actress said that she didn't want to keep doing the same thing all the time. Priyamani added that she knows the song did well, and even today, it is being played on various occasions.

The actress further stated that she wanted to make a name in Bollywood as well and not just as one who can do song and dance. The actress concluded by saying that her decision not to take up any special numbers was 'good'.

Meanwhile, Priyamani garnered a lot of appreciation for her role in the web series 'The Family Man' co-starring Manoj Bajpayee. In the show, she essays the character of Suchitra, Manoj's wife.

She will next feature in the films like 'Bhama Kalapam', 'Virata Parvam' and 'Maidaan'.

Every other day we hear of celebs shelling out big bucks to buy their dream homes. On Thursday, we reported that Amitabh Bachchan, got a whopping Rs 23 crore for this family bungalow Sopaan nestled in South Delhi. Today, we take a look at other celebs who cashed in on their star power and sold their old homes for whopping prices.

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas

Power-couple Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas sold their Beverly Hills home for USD 6.9 million. The sprawling pad that boasted of 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, a floating guest wing and a swimming pool played home to the couple after they tied the knot. With plans to expand their family, the two sold the property for a plush USD 20 million home.



Abhishek Bachchan

Abhishek Bachchan sold his luxurious Worli apartment for approximately Rs 45 crore. Last year, reports stated that the actor put his plush pad, located on the 37th floor of the Oberoi 360 West project up for grabs. The apartment that is over 7,500 square feet, and also has four car parking slots found a buyer who not only shelled out big on the home but spent another Rs 2.28 crore on stamp duty.



Dilip Kumar

Dilip Kumar's four-storey ancestral home in Pakistan was reportedly sold for an estimated Rs 80.56 lakh. The Bollywood legend often spoke about his cherished memories of the place in Mohallah Khudadad that was his home until his family shifted to India in 1935. According to reports, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the owners of the ancestral house have decided to preserve



the structure with the hopes to promote the importance of Peshawar and also strengthen Pakistan's tourism industry.

Karisma Kapoor

Karisma Kapoor made headlines when she sold her Khar apartment for a fat price of Rs 10.11 crore. The apartment was on the tenth floor of a building called Rose Queen Apartments and has a carpet area 1,611 square feet. The transaction and the sale were reportedly made on December 24, 2020.

Randhir Kapoor

Randhir Kapoor also decided to put his ancestral RK house in Chembur on the market. The veteran actor told ETimes that he decided to sell the house to live in a place in Bandra, to be closer to his wife Babita and daughters Karisma and Kareena. Confirming the same, Randhir said, "My parents had told me that I can stay in this (Chembur) home for as long as I want, but the day I decide to sell it, I will have to share the sale proceeds with my siblings Rishi, Rajiv, Ritu, and Rima.

Akshay Kumar

While others on this list sold their home, Akshay Kumar fetched a handsome price for a space he used as his office. The sprawling 5,359 sq ft property located on the first floor of a building in Andheri West, was sold for an estimated Rs 9 crore in December 2021.

Rajesh Khanna

Bollywood megastar Rajesh Khanna's Carter Road home in Bandra, made headlines when it was sold to businessman Shashi Shetty for Rs 95 crore. The late actor had purchased the 6,500 sq. ft. sea-facing landmark bungalow 'Aashirwad' from another Bollywood legend Rajendra Kumar back in the day. However, the house was later demolished to make way for the new owner's plans.

Parineeti Chopra

Back in September 2020, actress Parineeti Chopra sold two of her flats in Bandra reportedly for Rs 13.50 crore. The flat is spread across an area of 1725 sq ft and is located on the sixth floor of the building. She reportedly acquired the flats in 2014.

—ETimes

